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Manuals

American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.

MANUAL

FOR

MISSIONARY CANDIDATES,

AND FOR

APPOINTED MISSIONARIES BEFORE ENTERING THEIR FIELDS.

REVISED EDITION.

PRINTED FOR THE BOARD:
BEACON PRESS, THOS. TODD, CONGREGATIONAL HOUSE, BOSTON,
1891.

The offices of the American Board are in the Congregational House, Boston, Mass., and letters for the Secretaries, Treasurer, or Publishing and Purchasing Agent, should be addressed to them at No. 1 Somerset Street, Boston, Mass.

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MANUAL.

THIS pamphlet is intended to be a manual for persons wishing to engage in the missionary work under the direction of the American Board, and for appointed missionaries before they shall have entered their fields of labor. It will serve instead of many written and verbal answers to inquiries, which must otherwise be proposed to the Secretaries or Treasurer. It will always be presumed that candidates have made themselves acquainted with the contents of these pages, and that nothing need be repeated to them which is here contained.

I. *Missionary Laborers.*

Ordained ministers of the gospel are called *missionaries;* all others, whether men or women, who have received appointment, are called *assistant missionaries.*

II. *Time for deciding whether to become a Missionary.*

This question may be decided at any time, in view of providential indications, with the humble desire to act in accordance with the divine pleasure. "If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this or that." The reasons in favor of an early decision are briefly these:

1. An early decision is desirable, because of its bearing on the mind and conscience of the student, and it will probably render him more efficient and useful as a missionary.

2. One who decides early to devote himself to the cause of foreign missions will be more useful to that cause, during his preparatory studies, than he otherwise could be, and will be spared the necessity of considering "calls" at home.

3. It may be added, that an early decision to be a missionary will do no injury to one who may be providentially kept from engaging in the foreign service. If a man is actuated by love to Christ, and to souls redeemed by the blood of Christ, he need not fear the consequences of having it known that he is aspiring to the missionary office, even should he afterward find that his duty requires him to remain at home. A sincere regard for duty, and a resolute pursuit of it, are far less likely to be injurious to a man's usefulness, than a timorous shrinking from responsibility. Qualifications and the opportunity may be regarded as constituting a call to the foreign field.

III. *Qualifications of Missionaries and Assistant Missionaries.*

Of these some are indispensable for *all* candidates for the missionary work, while others are especially requisite in certain departments of that work.

The same general qualifications are requisite which are justly esteemed as the conditions of success at home: an unimpaired physical constitution; good intellectual ability, well disciplined by education, and if possible by practical experience; good sense; sound judgment of men and things; versatility, tact, adaptation to men of all classes and circumstances — "sanctified common sense;" a cheerful, hopeful spirit; ability to work pleasantly with others; persistent energy in the carrying out of plans once begun: — all controlled by a *single-hearted, self-sacrificing devotion to Christ and His cause.*

Mental powers and attainments of the highest order, executive ability and capacity for organizing and superintending, find ample scope in the missionary fields. Power in public address is as desirable and as useful in the work abroad as at home. Though there are many helps to the acquisition of foreign languages not enjoyed by the early missionaries, facility in acquiring a foreign tongue is a valuable qualification; yet much depends on the persistent purpose to master it.

The candidate should sustain *a good character* among those who know him. Any gross neglect of duty, any transaction that has brought him under suspicion, is a disqualification, as it might, should he enter the missionary service, bring reproach upon the cause. His standing should be such that when his intention is announced, the common sentiment of those who know him will be, that he is well qualified for the work.

As to the second class of qualifications, namely, special adaptations to a particular department of labor:

Those who expect to be engaged mainly in teaching, should not only be thoroughly prepared by their intellectual attainments and discipline, but should have shown special fitness in actual service by their success, not only in the general work of teaching, but in *molding character*, shaping the minds and hearts of their pupils.

A missionary physician should have what would in this country be esteemed a competent medical education; and he should be prepared to make his professional knowledge and skill *directly subservient to the furtherance of the gospel.* It is important that he should be acquainted with the natural sciences, and that he should be well read in Christian theology.

The foregoing qualifications are requisite in women, whether married or unmarried, who go out as assistant missionaries, so far as they are applicable to their sphere of labor and their peculiar circumstances. Practical knowledge of domestic work, especially of the *culinary art*, is often of very great value.

In all ordinary cases, it is expected that those who become missionaries will consecrate themselves to this service for life.

IV. *Time and Manner of Applying for an Appointment.*

If the candidate be in a theological seminary, a proper time for him to make his offer of service is at or near the commencement of the senior year. In other cases, it is desirable that it should be made six months at least before the candidate expects to complete his preparation.

The offer should be written, and it should be addressed to the Secretaries. The candidate should give a brief history of himself, setting forth his age, residence, early education, habits, employments, his religious experience, his views and motives in desiring the missionary work, the department of labor in which he wishes to engage, and the field he prefers, if he has any preference, with the reasons therefor. He should state particularly whether he has a sound constitution and enjoys good health, or the contrary; whether he is in debt, or expects to be so when his studies are completed; whether he expects to go out as a married or a single man; and in short, any particulars respecting himself which he thinks the Committee ought to know in acting upon his offer of service. This paper should be drawn up with great frankness on the part of the candidate. He may expect the Secretaries to use a corresponding frankness toward him. These instructions apply equally to women as to men.

The offer of those who are to become the wives of missionaries may be made through their intended husbands.

V. *Testimonials of Candidates.*

The Committee regard it as solemnly incumbent on them before appointing any person as a missionary or assistant missionary of the Board, to obtain as thorough a knowledge as possible of his character and qualifications for the work to which he aspires. For this reason a personal acquaintance with him is sought in all cases where it is possible. In the first instance, however, written testimonials are obtained and sent on by the candidate. They should relate to the various points already noticed under the head of "qualifications."

The proper persons to furnish these testimonials are —the pastor, with the deacons or elders of the church to which the candidate belongs, or where he is best known as a Christian; the president or professors of the college that gave him his degree; and the professors of the seminary where he pursued his theological

studies, or any other instructor. He should present, also, the ordinary testimonials from the ecclesiastical body by which he was licensed or ordained. If a physician, the persons with whom he pursued his professional studies should give him testimonials in regard to his proficiency therein.

It is desirable that others, either ministers or laymen, who are well acquainted with the candidate, should freely give their opinion as to his fitness for the work.

In the case of a woman, an intelligent and pious woman in whose family she has resided, or who has otherwise become well acquainted with her, may give much valuable information. If educated at an academy or seminary, there should be a letter from the principal of the institution. In every instance there should be an explicit statement as to the health, and the testimony of the family physician should be obtained.

Those whose physical constitutions have been at any time seriously impaired, who have suffered from rheumatic complaints or affections of the spine, and especially for a long time from nervous prostration or from difficulties peculiar to women, as a general rule ought not to go abroad.

The more full, minute, and explicit these testimonials are, the better. They should be sealed by the writers, and addressed to the Secretaries of the Board. Too much carefulness cannot be exercised by persons called on to give testimonials, to be conscientiously faithful to their convictions, as a duty alike to the candidate and the cause of Christ.

VI. *Questions to Missionary Candidates.*

Missionary candidates are requested carefully to answer the following questions, though with all convenient brevity, in their offer of service.

1. What are your views respecting each of the leading doctrines of Scripture commonly held by the churches sustaining this Board? In answering this question, you may use your own language, or refer to any creeds of acknowledged weight, as to the doctrines contained in these creeds.

2. Have you any views at variance with these doctrines, or any views of church government which would prevent your cordial coöperation with the missionaries of this Board?

3. What leads you to think that *you* are a Christian experimentally, and by the renewal of the Spirit?

4. How long have you been in the church?

5. What are your views of duty as a preacher of the gospel? What leads you to desire foreign missionary service?

6. How do you regard hardship, suffering, and peril incurred in prosecuting the missionary work; and to what extent are you taking them into the account and preparing yourself to meet them?

7. What is your purpose relative to entering into the missionary work for life?

8. What is your age? What is your native place? Where has been your residence? In what business and employments have you been engaged?

9. What course of education have you pursued? Do you acquire languages with facility?

10. What is the state of your health? Did you inherit a good constitution, in all respects? Are you aware of being now, or of having been at any time, subject to any bodily ailment or infirmity? Are your habits sedentary or active?

11. Are any near relatives to such a degree dependent on you, or likely to become so, that you are under obligations to make provision for their support?

12. If under engagement, express or implied, with a view to marriage, does your intended wife enter fully into your views and feelings with regard to the missionary work? Has she a good constitution and good health?

13. Do you assent to the rules and regulations of the Board, or is there anything in its organization or rules, or in the organization or manner of conducting its missions, which you disapprove, or which would prevent your laboring cheerfully and happily under its direction, and in conformity with its regulations and those of the missions?

VII. *Appointment and its Consequences.*

The *appointment* and the *designation* are two distinct things. They need not be decided at the same time; and often they are not. The first will be decided as soon as possible after the necessary papers are complete; and the second as soon thereafter as circumstances will permit.

The missionary engages, on accepting his appointment, to conform to the rules and regulations of the Board, which are appended to this Manual. He thus pledges himself, among other things, to be governed by the majority of votes in his mission, the proceedings being subject to the revision of the Prudential Committee. He comes, moreover, under certain other distinct and well-understood pledges: (1) As to his *manner of life;* which is to be one of exemplary piety and devotion to his work. (2) As to his *teaching;* which must be conformed to the evangelical doctrines generally received by the churches sustaining the Board, and set forth in their well-known Confessions of Faith. (3) As to *ecclesiastical usages;* which must be, substantially, such as prevail among the churches operating through the Board.

Candidates who have received their appointment cannot begin to draw upon the Board for their expenses until they actually, and by direction of the Committee, enter its service. The Board does not pay the debts of missionaries contracted before their appointment, nor those which they contract afterward, unless previously authorized by the Committee. It is a standing usage not to pay any part of the expenses incurred in the regular preparatory course of study for their profession as preachers, physicians, teachers, printers, etc. Should expense be incurred after appointment, by direction of the Committee, in acquiring the language of the country to which the missionary is designated, or in attending medical lectures, it will be paid by the Board. No candidate should visit the Missionary House expecting the Board to pay his traveling expenses, unless he has been expressly requested so to

do; nor should he, after his appointment, pursue any course involving expense on the part of the Board, unless expressly authorized to do it.

Specific and fixed salaries are given in the missions, as the more economical and satisfactory method. The allowance for the support of a missionary in the foreign field is not to be regarded, in any proper sense, as COMPENSATION for labor performed; nor is it graded to suit the varying abilities or success of different individuals, as in ordinary business occupations, in the marts of trade, and in civil life.

The salary asked by the missionary, and allowed by the Prudential Committee, is supposed rather to express simply what is necessary, in the way of pecuniary support, to his greatest efficiency in his chosen field of labor. In one sense it is a grant in aid, made by the churches at home, through the Prudential Committee. It is desired that the missionary should be free from anxiety in regard to means of living, so as to leave heart and hands at liberty for the largest possible service in the cause of Christ. Compensation for this service he will find in the privilege of preaching Christ among the Gentiles, and in the conscious presence and approbation of his Lord.

It has not been the custom of this Board to give missionaries such a salary as would enable them to meet the expense of yearly payments for life insurance policies. In case the candidate has already effected an insurance, some special arrangement can be made with the Treasurer of the Board.

VIII. *What a Missionary has a Right to Expect.*

A missionary is understood to go to his mission field in the discharge of his own personal duty, because he believes his Lord and Saviour requires him to go as his servant and ambassador. He regards the churches, and he regards the Board, in the light of *helpers* to carry out the benevolent purpose of his own independent self-consecration. A missionary engagement is not a contract between the churches and the missionary, in any

such sense that he may cease to perform missionary labor and claim a pension after a certain number of years, and while he is yet able to labor. If this idea has sometimes been advanced by missionaries, it has been when reasoning on the assumption that the work of publishing the gospel was committed by Christ to the Church as a society, or corporate body, to act as a principal in the matter, and as such, in the discharge of its own preëminent duty, to send forth and support preachers in all the world; whereas the command was given to individual disciples, before an organized Christian church existed; and whatever use was made of social organizations during the apostolic age, the work was always regarded as the discharge of *an individual and personal obligation. It is not less an individual and personal duty now.* Enlistment in the missionary enterprise is wholly voluntary, as well on the part of the missionary who goes abroad, as on the part of his fellow Christians who remain at home. They are co-workers and mutual helpers; and the coöperation of the donor may be as essential to the prosecution of the work as the labors of the missionary.

This view of the subject is doubtless the only one that will comport with the successful prosecution of missions for a prolonged period of time, and on an extended scale. It is necessary for all parties to feel *that they are discharging only their own personal obligations — that they are performing only their own appropriate work.*

The missionary's ecclesiastical relations, whatever they may be, are not affected by his appointment. The Board is not an ecclesiastical body. It is a glorious fact that the points which constitute emphatically *the message* of missionaries to the heathen are those in which all evangelical bodies mainly agree.

The fact should never be lost sight of that the Board and its Committee and officers have identically the same object in view and the same interest as the missionaries. Their object and their interest are nothing else than to render all the missions and missionaries in connection with the Board as useful as possible.

There is another fact, in this connection, of no small importance; which is, that the Board and its Committee and officers sustain a common and equal relation to all the missions and missionaries. Their position is central with regard to all; they correspond with all; they know the condition and claims of all; and while they know the amount of means placed at their disposal by the Christian public better than the missionaries can know it, they are bound to see that the claims of all are impartially attended to in the distribution of those means. The brethren in each of the missions may understand the circumstances, necessities, and intrinsic merits of their own missions better than the Prudential Committee. But they do not and cannot know so well the state of the other missions. They cannot judge so well of the relative claims of the several missions. They cannot know so well the general bearings of particular measures. Differences of opinion, when they have arisen, have generally been occasioned by difference in the points and range of observation. At the same time, the opinions of missionaries upon facts under their personal observation must ever have great influence with the Committee.

IX. *Designation.*

In the designation of missionaries to particular fields, the utmost care is taken to secure to each one just that place to which he is best fitted, where he is most needed, and where, all things considered, he may hope for the largest possible service to the cause of Christ. Regard is always had to the wishes and convictions of the candidate, and the conclusion in a given case is only reached after a full and free conference. The Prudential Committee never desires a missionary to go where he cannot labor cheerfully, and in accordance with his own convictions of duty and privilege.

X. *Studies.*

It is not deemed expedient by the Committee, nor by missionaries already among the heathen, that the regular course of preparatory or theological studies

should be neglected or curtailed, with a view to prosecuting studies more especially adapted to some contemplated field of missionary service. The furnishing and disciplining of the mind, effected by the ordinary course of education, is not less important for the preacher abroad than for the preacher at home; while the peculiar preparation required for a missionary in a particular country may be much more advantageously made in that country than at home. Should it be deemed of great importance, however, that time should be given to this form of preparation in the United States, it may be attended to after the regular and usual course of study shall have been completed. Where appointed missionaries are obliged to delay their departure for a foreign field, and they can have competent personal instruction, it is well to make all possible acquisition, meanwhile, of the languages which they are to use.

The experience of the Committee leads them, in all ordinary cases, to question the expediency of an ordained missionary's taking the time necessary to attend medical lectures. Nor would they encourage a physician to delay his departure for a long time, that he may pursue the study of theology. Nor have the Committee ever known circumstances in which it seemed advisable for an accepted missionary, or physician, to visit any foreign country, for the sake of study, previous to entering his field of labor.

XI. *Debts.*

It has been already stated that the Board does not pay the debts of those who receive appointments as missionaries. Candidates will, of course, be allowed the time and opportunity required for liquidating their debts before going abroad; and they should be scrupulously careful to see that all claims against them are cancelled before they leave the country. They are expected to devise their own plans for paying their debts. It is exceedingly desirable that they should owe as little as possible. Students are apt to incur debts for books;

but this is seldom wise. Nor should they incur a debt merely because they have friends who are willing to advance them money.

XII. *Ordination.*

The missionary having received official notice of his appointment by the Committee, it is left with himself and his friends, or with the church or ecclesiastical body with which he is connected, to make arrangements for his ordination. Care should be taken that the time, place, manner, and all the circumstances, be such as to give no just cause for dissatisfaction in any quarter, and such as, in the highest degree possible, to promote the interests of the missionary cause.

XIII. *Marriage.*

It is very desirable that a missionary should be married. The exceptions are rare. Good health is very important in the wife, though sometimes ladies in delicate health, but of unimpaired physical constitution, have been quite as well abroad as at home. And a minister does not need higher qualifications in a wife at home than he would in the foreign field, where she is almost his only companion and adviser. Early engagements are not desirable. They are more apt to be judicious when formed at a later period; and there is less danger of a failure in health before the parties are ready for marriage. Nor is it well to defer all attention to the subject till the eve of departure from the country; though excellent wives have been obtained even then. As a rule, marriage should be deferred by missionaries until the time of their departure for their missionary field is fixed and near.

XIV. *Outfit.*

The outfit of a missionary includes the clothing, bedding, etc., for his use on arriving at his place of destination, together with a *select* private library and the necessary furniture for housekeeping.

Some portion of the furniture can ordinarily be procured in the country to which he is going. Should it resemble the furniture used by the natives, so much the better, if it can be rendered convenient, as that will make both him and his house more agreeable to them.

Necessary traveling expenses preparatory to embarkation, and the cost of passage, though paid by the Board, are not included in the outfit. The Treasurer is not authorized to pay the freight of outfit to the place of destination beyond six tons ship measurement, forty cubic feet to a ton.

It is desirable that the relatives and personal friends of the candidate should, so far as they are able and disposed, aid in furnishing the outfit. Of course those pious parents who would have aided their children with funds to commence housekeeping, had they been married with a view to residing in this country, will not withhold their aid because their children become missionaries to the heathen. Collections or subscriptions of money taken up for a missionary's outfit, at a public meeting, or out of the circle of a missionary's personal friends, are almost always inexpedient. If ever made, the sums thus raised should be regarded by the missionary as so much received for outfit, and be acknowledged accordingly.

Well-made boxes of the medium size are ordinarily more convenient for clothing than trunks.[1] The boxes should be numbered, and a list made of every article contained in each.[2] Things to be used on the voyage should be packed separately, and marked accordingly; and everything should be forwarded to the place of embarkation in good season.

Missionaries are sometimes fitted out entirely by their friends; and almost always they are so to a greater or less extent. But by the rules of the Board, a married missionary may receive aid from its funds when the

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[1] Where the boxes are to be transported on horses any considerable distance, it is recommended that the length be 3 feet, the depth 1 foot and 6 inches, and the breadth 1 foot and 4 inches; and the gross weight of the box, when filled, should not exceed 160 pounds.

[2] A general statement of the contents of each box, as "clothing," "books," etc., and approximate value, should be furnished the forwarding agent, for insurance.

assistance is needed, to the amount of $500; a single man, $300; and a single woman, $250. At the end of a year after reaching his destination a married missionary may receive an additional outfit allowance of $150 on application to the Treasurer of the Board. At least $50 of the outfit allowance should be reserved, to be expended after reaching the mission field. The missionary should, in no case, begin to draw his outfit from the treasury till near the time of his departure.

How to make out a List for Outfit.

Remember that a list of outfit made out for another mission, or even for your own mission twenty years ago, is no rule now. Circumstances change with time and place. The opinions of the older missionaries, when asked, are often given under the influence of the *remembered* circumstances of their own embarkation. When these opinions are given by persons who have been residing in a very different field, they will be exceedingly apt to mislead.

It is well to seek advice; but make out a list for yourself, as the result of your own reflections. Every missionary, knowing a few facts, and exercising some thought on the subject, can form a satisfactory opinion as to what he will require. He needs to know the length of the voyage — the climates he is to pass through — and that no washing is done at sea. He can then judge what he will need for the journey, and his wife can do the same for herself.

The number of articles to be used on the voyage should be as few as possible, yet sufficient, with a few extras for sickness. In warm weather more changes will be necessary than in cold.

Thick clothing, somewhat worn, will be found useful on shipboard and in traveling.

Mattresses will generally be procured at the place of embarkation.

In determining what articles of clothing shall be taken for the voyage, and for use after reaching the

field, proceed methodically, beginning with the outer garment, and note down how many will be needed — thick and thin, coarse and fine, woolen, cotton, etc.

A lady should take the same course in respect to her clothing. As a general rule, clothing should be warmer for winter and cooler for summer than in the same temperature in this country.

The amount of furniture to be taken must be determined by the locality of the mission. Owing to the progress of commerce, etc., less and less need be taken every year.

In making the purchases, see at every step that you are not running beyond your available means. If you are, you may be sure you are on too large a scale.

As a general rule, the articles to be obtained at the place of the missionary's residence are those which are manufactured by the needle. Such articles are better, made among friends, than those which are found ready made in cities. Donations in stockings, shoes, etc., should also be thankfully received, and whatever other needful articles can be packed in a small space. But bulky articles, and also heavy articles, unless the place of embarkation is near, should be procured at that place, the freight being a serious addition to the first cost. Bring a list, fairly written, of all the articles obtained. Clothing should all be marked with the name of the owner.

Bear in mind that freight must be paid on the outfit, thus greatly increasing the cost of bulky articles, before they reach their foreign destination. As the Board is responsible for freight on only six tons (240 cubic feet) care should be taken not to incur a debt for transportation of comparatively unimportant articles, even if given by friends.

It is no longer true, in respect to any mission, that an outfit of clothing, etc., should be procured for several years. Fresh supplies can now be readily ordered from home, or obtained abroad.

A competent man will be found at the Missionary Rooms in Boston to advise the missionaries in the purchase of

articles of outfit, and to conduct them to places where these articles can be advantageously procured. Every one must judge in great measure for himself as to his wants; and it is for him to see that his peculiar taste is suited.

Experience has shown that it is well for missionaries to be assisted only so far as may be necessary to enable them to be in readiness on the day of embarkation; and it is better, on all accounts, that *they* should purchase the articles, and pack at least their clothing and bedding. They are then better satisfied, and they know where to look for what they want.

A full and accurate account should be kept of the manner in which all moneys received from the treasury of the Board have been expended, noting particularly what is for traveling expenses, and what for outfit; and a brief abstract of these expenses should be given to the Treasurer before embarkation.

The outfit of a missionary is regarded as the property of the Board, so far as purchased by its funds; and in case of a missionary retiring from the field within a limited period, for other cause than failure of health, it is expected that an equitable return will be made to the Board — due regard being had to expenses incurred and services rendered.

Passport.

A passport, obtained from the Secretary of State at Washington, is indispensable to missionaries going to Eastern countries, and is important for them wherever they go. Missionaries are requested to consult the Secretaries on this matter a month at least before their departure.

Private Library and Periodicals.

The missionary's *private library* should be eminently *select.* Its nature should depend on his particular profession. A large library is desirable for but few missionaries. In some countries it is exceedingly difficult to preserve books from the ravages of insects. In uncivilized countries they will be exposed to numerous

casualties, and will often suffer for want of the care it is impossible to render. Should it happen that necessary books are not taken when the missionary goes out, they can be sent for and received by mail or otherwise.

Missionaries, previously to leaving this country, or afterward, should not directly, or through their friends, order books, periodicals, or any other articles to be sent to them at the expense of the Board. They, of course, have the same liberty of ordering books and periodicals at their private expense, which pastors have at home.

XV. *Farewell Visits to Friends.*

It is not wise to take a long time for these. It is better for the health of the missionary and his wife, and for all concerned, that they should be short. It is painful to see persons come to the place of embarkation wearied out, with their health perhaps materially and permanently affected by a succession of long-continued, exhausting farewells. Experience has shown that short visits are much more satisfactory in the end. The Committee, however, aim to give missionaries as early notice as may be in their power of the time of departure.

The missionary, from the time of his appointment, should be sure to keep the Secretary who has the correspondence with him informed where letters will find him in the shortest possible time. This may be of great importance to him, as his designation and departure may, by various means, be unexpectedly hastened or delayed.

Public instructions are not often given to missionaries on leaving the country. These are not now regarded as essential. Yet public statements of plans and principles, on occasion of the departure of missionaries, are useful to the cause; and the custom will no doubt be continued, so far as time, health, and other circumstances shall permit, particularly on the occasion of entering upon new fields.

XVI. *Care of Health. Furloughs.*

Missionaries are expected conscientiously to care for their health, taking such rests and vacations in the vicinity of their missionary fields as are necessary for this purpose. Occasionally, also, a visit to the United States may be desirable; but no fixed period of labor abroad entitles a missionary to such a furlough. The circumstances of different individuals are so unlike, and the differences of climate are such, that each case must be judged of according to its necessity, always with a wise reference to the best interests of the missionary cause at home and abroad. On leaving his mission, a missionary's salary is discontinued, and his necessary traveling expenses to the United States, by the most direct route consistent with health, will be defrayed by the Board. On reaching his friends, or former home in this country, an allowance will be provided till the expiration of the furlough, the amount to be fixed after conference, and on a missionary basis. All income from ministerial or other services while in this country should be accounted for to the Treasurer of the Board, and applied to such allowance.

Rules and Regulations Relating to Missionaries.

1. Every person received by the Prudential Committee as a candidate for missionary service is expected to hold himself at the direction of the Committee, both in respect to the field of his future labors, and the time of his going forth; it being understood, however, that his inclination, as well as his particular qualifications and other circumstances, shall be kindly and attentively considered.

2. The missionaries and assistant missionaries are regarded as having an equitable claim upon the churches in whose behalf they go among the heathen for an economical support while performing their missionary labors; and it shall be the duty of the Board to see that a fair and equitable allowance is made to them, taking into view their actual circumstances in the several countries where they reside.

3. No missionary or assistant missionary of the Board shall engage in any transactions or employments yielding pecuniary profit, without first obtaining the consent of his brethren in the mission.[1]

4. A majority of missionaries and assistant missionaries in any mission shall, in their regular meetings, decide all questions that may arise in regard to their proceedings and conduct, in which the mission is interested, the decision being subject to the revision of the Prudential Committee. At such meetings every male missionary and assistant missionary present, having arrived at the age of twenty-one years, is entitled to a vote.

5. In the consideration of questions touching their own work the unmarried women of a mission and a station are to have an equal voice with the men.

6. In case of differences of opinion as to the conduct of their work, women have the same right with men, of appeal to the mission in the first instance, and later, if need be, to the Prudential Committee, and always of reference to the Secretaries of the American Board.

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[1] This should be also with the approval of the Prudential Committee, and all income from such sources should be placed at the credit of the Board in the mission treasurer's accounts.

7. As the Prudential Committee, in making the annual appropriations, aims to give to all the missions and missionaries a just proportion of the means at its disposal, and distributes according to estimates carefully prepared and duly submitted to it by the different missions, it is incumbent on all missionaries to accept the arrangement made by the Prudential Committee, and not to make special appeals for objects outside of the appropriations.[1]

8. When any missionary or assistant missionary of the Board shall desire, on account of ill health or any other cause, to return to the United States, he is required to obtain permission from the Prudential Committee so to do, when it is practicable (always sending with his request the opinion of his mission), and when impracticable to obtain such permission, he is required to obtain the consent of his mission, which consent shall always be subject to the revision of the Prudential Committee.

9. When missionaries or assistant missionaries return home, their connection with the Board shall cease as soon as there is no longer a reasonable probability of their returning to their missionary labor.[2]

10. Whenever any missionary or assistant missionary has, in the judgment of the Prudential Committee, violated the instructions given him, whether before or after entering the field of his missionary labors, or has failed to perform any duty reasonably required of him, they are authorized to dismiss him, in case they deem it expedient, from the service of the Board. In all cases, however, where the missionary or assistant missionary has actually been named in any of the official publications of the Board as having been received under its patronage and direction, the individual so dismissed shall have the privilege of submitting his case to the revision of the Board, at an annual meeting.

The following resolution was adopted by the Board at its annual meeting in Salem, October, 1871:

Resolved, That in order to secure the harmony and efficiency of action essential among our missionaries, at the several missionary stations of this Board, whenever the Prudential Committee shall become satisfied that an individual missionary, for any cause, is unable to work in harmony with his brethren, or to exert such influence as is deemed truly promotive of the cause of Christ, or as to warrant his continuance in that field, it is held by this Board to be their duty, alike to the individual missionary, to his brethren in the same field, and to the churches which support him, to recall such missionary, making such provision for him and his family as may be deemed equitable, in view of his necessities and period of service.

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[1] Authority for such appeals in exceptional cases, may, of course, be given by the Prudential Committee.

[2] Of course it is understood that no missionary should borrow money of natives or foreigners in mission fields, either for himself or for his missionary work, and the Board can in no wise be held responsible for such obligations, unless authorized by the mission, and in cases of emergency.

11. When superannuated or disabled missionaries or assistant missionaries, or the widows of missionaries or assistant missionaries, return to this country with the approbation of the Prudential Committee, it shall be the duty of the Committee to make such grants toward their support as the circumstances of each case shall require, and as shall best comport with the missionary character and the interests of the missionary cause; it being understood,

(*a*) That no pensions or annuities are to be settled on any person, and that no grant is to be made, except in extraordinary cases, for any other than the current year.

(*b*) That, except in extraordinary cases, after the lapse of a year from their return, no grant is to be made to returned missionaries or assistant missionaries who are neither superannuated nor disabled by sickness, and yet are not expected to resume their missionary labors.

(*c*) That missionaries and assistant missionaries who return on account of sickness, and recover their health, and remain in this country, are no longer to be regarded as having claims upon the Board for pecuniary assistance.

(*d*) That missionaries and assistant missionaries who return on account of sickness, and partially recover their health so as to attend to the ordinary business of life for a number of years, are not to be regarded, when they again lose their health, as having the same claims upon the Board as they had when they first arrived.

12. When missionaries or assistant missionaries desire to send their children to this country for education, and when it is decided, in a manner conformable to the rules and usages of the Board, that the children may come, the arrangements for the passage, so far as they involve expense, shall have the concurrence of the mission, and the allowance, extraordinary cases excepted, shall be only for a passage direct to this country.

13. When the children arrive in this country, the Prudential Committee will see that they have a suitable conveyance to the places where they are to be educated or to reside; and the Committee may make grants, on application from the parents or guardians, to an amount not exceeding one hundred and twenty dollars a year for each child, until the children are eighteen years of age, and "in cases of special need" the Committee is authorized to make grants "not exceeding one hundred and fifty dollars," and to extend the time "until the children are twenty years of age."

14. Children who are left orphans, and without a suitable home in the mission, or a responsible guardian, will receive the immediate and kind consideration of the Prudential Committee, who will make an arrangement for their return home, and provide for them the best guardianship in their power.

15. The allowances made on account of the children of living missionaries or assistant missionaries, wherever the children may be educated, shall be charged to the mission to which the parents

belong; and the allowances made on account of orphan children shall, in ordinary cases, be charged to the mission to which the parents belonged at the time of their decease.

16. Such are the multiplied cares and duties of the Prudential Committee, and the Treasurer and Secretaries, that it is not regarded as practicable or expedient for them to undertake the guardianship of the children sent to this country.

17. It shall be the duty of the Prudential Committee to affix a limit to the annual expenditures of each mission.

18. The rule is applicable to all missionaries and agents of the Board that real estate shall not be purchased at the expense of the Board, nor money loaned belonging to the Board, without the express permission of the Prudential Committee previously obtained.

19. In general, the sole object of the printing establishments connected with the missions of the Board shall be to exert a direct influence upon the surrounding native population; and no mission, or member of a mission, may print any letter, tract, or appeal, at these establishments, at the expense of the Board, with a view to its being sent to individuals or communities in the United States.

20. It is recommended to those missions in which it can conveniently be done, to hold their annual meetings at the same time with that of the Board.

It is recommended to those missions which cannot conveniently hold their annual meetings at the same time with the Board, to devote Thursday (the third day in the annual session of the Board, and that in which the Lord's Supper is celebrated) to special prayer, with the particular object of securing the blessing of God upon the deliberations and proceedings of the Board during its session; upon the Prudential Committee, during the year ensuing, and the missionaries and agents laboring under its direction; and upon the several missions, and the churches which contribute for their support.

It is recommended to those missions which shall hold their annual meetings at the same time with the Board, to devote such part of Thursday as they conveniently can to special prayer for the objects just specified; and the afternoon, where circumstances favor it, to the celebration of the Lord's Supper; inviting the native church members to unite with the mission in this celebration, and giving them information concerning such organizations and operations of the churches at home as have for their object to spread gospel light through the world.